

Queen's Park Insider

Spring 2018

Official Magazine of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme



OLIP is a Programme of the Canadian Political Science Association

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As we reach the end of our internship, there is an inevitable tendency to focus on the future, or the next opportunity, adventure, or degree. We are all excited for what lies ahead for both our cohort and future OLIP interns. This publication is a chance to reflect on everything we have learned and the unique experiences this program has afforded us.

Wherever we find ourselves in the next stage of our careers, we will be bringing with us the lessons we have learned at Queen's Park. We have gotten first hand advice from dozens of individuals at the top of their fields, spent afternoons talking with some of Ontario's most distinguished scholars, and have had the privilege of working alongside dedicated MPPs and their staffers. Other highlights include our study tours to Quebec City, Ottawa, and Yellowknife, and to wrap up our internship, our upcoming study tour to the United Kingdom, the birthplace of the Westminster parliamentary system.

None of these opportunities would be possible without the support of our sponsors, some of whom are featured in the last few pages of the magazine. We are also grateful to the Canadian Political Science Association and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario for their unwavering commitment to providing young graduates with opportunities to understand and study our country's political institutions. Our democratic institutions grow stronger because of these initiatives.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to the OLIP administrative team, comprised of Academic Director Peter Constantinou, co-ordinators Valerie Quoic Lim and Susan Viets, and programme assistant Elisa Ntarelli.

Sincerely,

Ana Qarri & Matthew Klassen
Magazine Chair and Deputy Chair

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The Ontario Legislature Internship Programme was established in 1975. The programme is administered by the Canadian Political Science Association and is supported by a substantial grant from the Ontario Legislative Assembly. OLIP provides opposition and government Members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario with highly qualified assistants, while simultaneously giving interns academic and practical experience in the day-to-day work of the Legislature.

Director's Report

Welcome to the 2018 spring issue of the *Queen's Park Insider*!

It has been another great year for the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme. As we near the end of another year of OLIP it is my honour to extend my thanks to all the organizations and individuals that make this important programme successful.

OLIP is supported by a partnership between the Canadian Political Science Association and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. I would like to extend special thanks to the Speaker and the Clerk, the Honourable Dave Levac and Mr. Todd Decker, for their unwavering support of the program. As the Speaker retires this year, the interns have chosen to make him an Honorary Intern – a fitting honour for someone who has been a tireless supporter of the programme and our interns.

OLIP is generously supported by many sponsors, as you can see on our back page. This year I would like to highlight the Churchill Society for the Advancement of Parliamentary Democracy, a long-time supporting organization of OLIP, featured on page 22. Every year, the Churchill Society donates a portion of the funds raised from the Annual Churchill Dinner to sponsor the interns' study tour to London, United Kingdom. The study tour is also made possible by our strong partnership with British Consul-General in Toronto Kevin McGurgan.

Thus far the OLIP interns have travelled to Quebec City, Ottawa, and Yellowknife. In June, the interns will travel to Regina, Sask., for the CPSA conference where they will present their original research on legislative affairs, and finally to London, United Kingdom for Parliamentary briefings.

I would like to extend a special thanks to our dedicated administrative team members, Valerie Quioc Lim and Susan Viets, and our programme assistant, Elisa Natarelli. They are terrific to work with and care deeply about the programme and our interns.

Our administrative team is always striving to better the OLIP experience. This year, we enhanced the academic portion of the program through a series of Academic



Sessions hosted by experts in Ontario politics. Some of the sessions are featured on page 19.

Our initiatives this year, including the second iteration of the Alumni Mentorship programme, serve as a reminder of the significance of OLIP's alumni community. There is never a shortage of engaged alumni who are willing to meet with the interns, invite the cohorts to their organizations, and mentor them throughout and after the programme. Two of our alumni, including one from the inaugural cohort of OLIP, are featured on pages 24 and 25.

It is with gratitude and optimism that I look forward to the conclusion of the 42nd year of OLIP and to welcoming the 43rd cohort in September.

Best wishes,

Dr. Peter P. Constantinou
OLIP Director

MPP Placements



Harmeet is placed with MPP Jim McDonnell (Progressive Conservative).

I am thrilled to be working with MPP Jim McDonnell for my opposition placement. MPP McDonnell is currently the PC Critic for the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services, and he represents the Eastern Ontario riding of Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry. Considering that I have lived in large municipalities my entire life, I am eager to learn about the unique issues and challenges facing residents of rural communities. So far, I have had the opportunity to sit in on stakeholder meetings, conduct research for a private Member's public bill, and assist with press releases. I feel privileged to have been welcomed wholeheartedly into the office by MPP McDonnell, his EA Marilyn McMahon, and his LA Luca Manfredi. I look forward to learning from my team over the course of the placement, and I am excited about the challenges that lie ahead.



Jaskiran is placed with MPP Peggy Sattler (New Democratic Party).

My opposition placement is with MPP Peggy Sattler, who has represented the riding of London West since 2013. I look forward to assisting MPP Sattler in her work as the Ontario NDP critic for Women's Issues, Education, and Advanced Education and Skills Development. MPP Sattler and I share an interest in higher education issues and engaging young women in politics; I look forward to learning from her extensive experience on these topics. Prior to her election, MPP Sattler served as a Trustee on the Thames Valley District School Board and was also a Director of Policy at a local research firm. She brings a wealth of experience on post-secondary, education and other policy issues to her role at Queen's Park. Thank you to MPP Sattler for the warm welcome!

MPP Placements

Matthew is placed with MPP Lisa Thompson (Progressive Conservative).

My current placement is with MPP Lisa Thompson from the riding of Huron-Bruce. MPP Thompson serves as PC Caucus Chair, Critic for International Trade, and Indigenous Affairs. It has been an exciting first month given the current policy climate around trade and the evolving relationship between Indigenous peoples and the federal and provincial governments. I have enjoyed participating in briefings, stakeholder meetings, and speechwriting, and I look forward to future work on private Members' public bills and visits to the riding. MPP Thompson is committed to mentorship and I am grateful for what I have learned thus far, as well as for the kindness and help offered by Ben Menka, her policy advisor. It will be an exciting few months at Queen's Park, and I'm looking forward to all this placement has to offer.



Ana is placed with MPP Deb Matthews (Liberal).

For my second placement, I am working with Liberal MPP Deb Matthews who represents the riding of London North Centre, and her Legislative Assistant Neil Wereley. MPP Matthews has had a long career in Ontario politics and I look forward to learning from her many years of political experience. Until January 2018, MPP Matthews served as the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education and Skills Development, and prior to that, as the Minister Responsible for the Poverty Reduction Strategy. Currently, MPP Matthews is the Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier - a portfolio I am thrilled to be working on. I am grateful to both MPP Matthews and Neil Wereley who have welcomed me wholeheartedly, and I feel privileged to be a part of their team.



MPP Placements



Josef is placed with MPP Mike Colle (Liberal).

I am very fortunate to have been placed in the office of MPP Mike Colle, who represents the riding of Eglinton-Lawrence. MPP Colle is also the Deputy Government Whip and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Labour. First elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1995, MPP Colle has an breadth of experience in local and provincial politics, and I am excited to learn from him. I am also looking forward to attending community events in “Eg-Law”: MPP Colle's love for his community and its history is clear and infectious. I will be assisting him on issues ranging from transit to potholes to labour policy. Thank you to MPP Colle and his Executive Assistant Casey Richardson for the warm and enthusiastic welcome. I'm delighted to be part of the team.



Mackenzie is placed with MPP Arthur Potts (Liberal).

It is a privilege to work with MPP Arthur Potts, and his staff, David Bellmore and Steven Crombie. As the MPP for Beaches - East York, MPP Potts is also the Parliamentary Assistant to both the Minister of Transportation, and Minister of the Environment and Climate Change. I look forward to learning from MPP Potts' team which is tackling challenges facing both Ontario and Canada. I am grateful that MPP Potts, David and Steven are mentoring me throughout this placement, and have delegated several responsibilities to me, including writing Members' statements, speeches, and questions. I look forward to the rest of my time in MPP Potts' office.

MPP Placements

Kassandra is placed with MPP Ann Hoggarth (Liberal).

I am pleased to have my second placement with MPP Ann Hoggarth, who represents the riding of Barrie. MPP Hoggarth is also the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister for Community and Social Services. Prior to being elected to provincial government, MPP Hoggarth worked as a kindergarten teacher, a job she feels has left her well-prepared for interacting with rowdy colleagues in the House. She has previously served as president of the Simcoe County Elementary Teachers' Federation, as well as president of the Barrie Skating Club. I'm looking forward to assisting MPP Hoggarth with her parliamentary duties, including a private Member's public bill regarding school absenteeism. I am also eager to visit Barrie and learn more about the issues facing this rapidly growing community. I am grateful to MPP Hoggarth, EA Chris Wakelin, and LA Colin Campbell for the warm welcome to their office.



Daryl is placed with MPP Michael Harris (Progressive Conservative).

I am privileged to have my second placement with MPP Michael Harris, who represents the riding of Kitchener-Conestoga. MPP Harris is the PC Critic for Transportation, and Research, Innovation and Science. Even though I have been in the office for only a few weeks, MPP Harris and his staff have given me a great degree of freedom to select the projects I want to work on, and they consistently seek my feedback on various topics. Legislative Assistant Kate and Executive Assistant Rob have been great mentors and have welcomed me into the office. I look forward to my constituency visit to the riding of Kitchener—Conestoga.



MPP Placements



Shireen is placed with MPP Cindy Forster (New Democratic Party).

I am working with MPP Cindy Forster for my opposition placement. MPP Forster represents the beautiful riding of Welland, and is the NDP Caucus chair and critic for Labour, Fairness and Work. During my first two weeks, I have prepared briefing notes for stakeholder meetings, written Member statements and oral questions for Question Period, responded to constituent requests, and familiarized myself with labour legislation and policies in Ontario. I feel privileged to have been welcomed wholeheartedly by MPP Forster, and by her Executive Assistant Eiman Zarrug, who has been a great mentor! I look forward to learning from their wealth of expertise and knowledge for the remainder of my placement.

2017-2018 Alumni Mentorship Programme

The OLIP Alumni Mentorship Programme matches a current intern with an OLIP alumni mentor. The mentorship program provides interns transitioning out of OLIP with much appreciated personalized career advice from their alumni mentors.

The programme also strengthens our alumni network as it continues to connect recent and older generations of alumni. We are thankful to have such a strong alumni network whose engagement makes this and similar initiatives possible.

This year's matches are:

Harmeet Sandhu is matched with Yuliya Khraplyva, '09-'10.

Shireen Salti is matched with Anthony Boland, '12-'13.

Matthew Klassen is matched with Frank Lowery, '75-'76.

Ana Qarri is matched with Guy Charlton, '91-'92.

Josef Méthot is matched with Monika Wyrzykowska, '11-'12.

Kassandra Loewen is matched with Dagmar Soennecken, '98-'99.

Daryl Gonsalves is matched with Beth Elder, '12-'13.

Jaskiran Shoker is matched with Emma Ferrone, '08-'09.

Mackenzie Taylor is matched with Olivia Labonté, '15-'16.

Honourary Intern

The Hon. Dave Levac



This year, we are thrilled to recognize the Honourable Dave Levac, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, as an Honourary Intern of the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme. Both before and during his tenure as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Speaker Levac's support of our programme has been instrumental to its success.

Every year, he has hosted the interns for one of our first meetings of the internship, introducing us to the inner workings of the Legislature. Moreover, Speaker Levac has always ensured that each year's cohort received a warm welcome in the House. Before the Hon. Dave Levac was elected Speaker, nine OLIP interns had the privilege of working with him.

Throughout our interactions,

the Speaker created a friendly atmosphere, always encouraging us to have important conversations about the role of politics in daily life. We often left conversations with the Speaker with new knowledge and a strong understanding of the importance of community and relationship-building.

Speaker Levac's time at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario has left a legacy, and he will be missed by OLIP and everyone at Queen's Park.

It is our honour to present Speaker Dave Levac with this honorary internship on behalf of all the OLIP interns and staff members on whom he has made a positive impact throughout his career at Queen's Park. We wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

“ During my tenure as Speaker, I have had the pleasure of interacting with interns from the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme (OLIP). Individuals who are selected for this prestigious programme are some of the brightest and most politically engaged minds that Canada has to offer. Each year, I am always impressed by the level of knowledge, dedication and passion they bring to their roles while working with Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP). Their commitment to learning and service is exceptional. The internship serves as an exciting opportunity to gain exposure to provincial politics at a fundamental front line level.

As this is my last year as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, and as MPP for Brant, I am confident that the quality of individuals participating in the OLIP will continue to grow. I am looking forward to the impact they will have in the years to come. ”

The Hon. Dave Levac

*41st Speaker of the
Legislative Assembly of Ontario*

Interns in Québec City



The interns with Parliamentary Counsel Alexandre Regimbal in the Chamber.

Our first study tour was to Québec City and the National Assembly of Québec. We are grateful to our Québécois counterparts, the Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant interns, for the warm reception.

We were fortunate to meet with Members of the National Assembly (MNAs) from across the political spectrum, like Mathieu Lemay, Catherine Fournier, Jean-François Lisée, Carole Poirier, Jean-Marc Fournier, and David Birnbaum. These meetings provided us with valuable insights into Québec politics, and phenomena such as the Quiet Revolution, the role of media in the province's politics, cap and trade, the preservation of the French language, sovereignty, nationalism, and multiculturalism.



The interns with House Clerk Michel Bonsaint (middle) and Director General of Parliamentary Affairs François Arseneault (far right).

Concerns regarding the future of Québec's unique language and culture were a central theme throughout our meetings with government officials. We heard that governing Québec presents a distinct political challenge, given Canada's anglophone majority, and the economic and cultural importance of immigration.

We were also interested in the variety of institutional reforms in the National Assembly. Of particular interest was the banning of clapping and heckling from Question Period, the use of e-petitions, and the modernization of the building itself. Clerk Michel Bonsaint described the construction of the new high security entrance, a modern visitors' pavilion, and new committee rooms with glass walls that allow visitors to observe meetings.



The interns with president of the Press Gallery, Martin Croteau.

It was also fascinating to learn from Lieutenant Governor J. Michel Doyon about the role of the Crown in Québec, and the importance of the Lieutenant Governor as an institution, rather than as a person. We were also grateful to meet with the president of the Press Gallery, Martin Croteau, who walked us through its accreditation process, and the changing role of the media and press corps over the years.



The interns with Leader of the Parti Québécois, Jean-François Lisée, and MNAs Catherine Fournier and Carole Poirier.

Before leaving Québec City, an MNA asked us to reflect on Québec's unique political climate, in which the preservation of French language and culture is essential. We were told that an ideal Québec MNA is someone who respects the political process, but also sees it as a means to an end: "You need to know in your heart and soul what you want to do here."

It was an honour to learn from the MNAs, legislative staff, and everyone else we met in Québec City.

Interns on the Hill

After our whirlwind introduction to the world of the National Assembly of Québec, it was time for our close encounter with Parliament Hill. We received a warm welcome from MP Irene Mathysen during our first meeting in Ottawa. MP Mathysen told us about her efforts to improve the lives of Canadian veterans.



The interns with Speaker Geoff Regan.



The interns with Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party of Canada.

We learned that the House of Commons' 338 members can often find it difficult to make their voices heard, and to be a successful MP requires focus and dedication to a limited number of issues. This was a point echoed by MP Michael Chong and MP Nathaniel Erskine-Smith, both outspoken advocates of democratic reform. MP Elizabeth May also spoke passionately about empowering individual Parliamentarians.

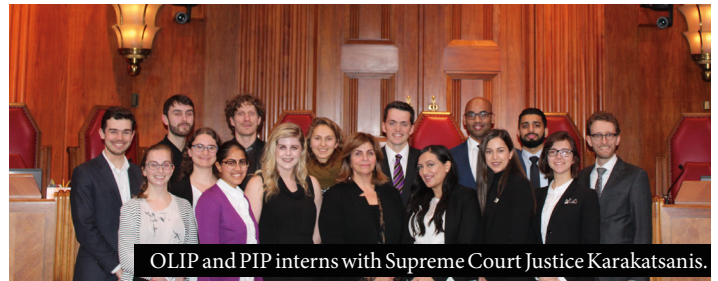
The ongoing evolution of the Canadian Senate, soon to have a majority of independent members, came up repeatedly during our visit. Senator Grant Mitchell described how senators increasingly feel empowered to fulfill their role as the "Chamber of Sober Second Thought." We were fortunate to hear from the experts on this topic: Charles Robert, Clerk of the House of



The interns with Deputy Secretary of Cabinet Ian McCowan.

Commons, Heather Lank, Principal Clerk of the Senate, and Michel Patrice, Deputy Clerk (Administration) of the House of Commons. They emphasized that the changes we see today are only the latest evolution in the 800-year-old Westminster parliamentary tradition.

We were honoured to meet government House Leader Bardish Chagger, who challenged us to support young women in politics and to embrace change in our lives. Just after, we spoke with Katie Telford, Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister, about how to level the playing field for women and the importance of strong provincial-federal relationships in Canada. Deputy Cabinet Secretary Ian McCowan introduced us to the inner workings of the Cabinet Office, and to the complex process of government transition after elections.



OLIP and PIP interns with Supreme Court Justice Karakatsanis.

We rounded off the study tour with a visit to the Supreme Court to speak with Justice Andromache Karakatsanis. Justice Karakatsanis gave us a glimpse into the workings of the Supreme Court, and spoke about the complex relationship between the process of Indigenous reconciliation and the Canadian court system. This long discussion was the perfect conclusion to a study tour that inspired the future lawyers, clerks, civil servants, and elected officials among our ranks!

Meeting Ontario's Former



We travelled to Brampton to discuss Ontario politics with the **18th premier of Ontario, Bill Davis**. Mr. Davis offered valuable perspectives on education in Ontario, the role of values in politics, and the political machinations behind the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. He also reflected on former MPP Stephen Lewis, former prime minister Pierre Trudeau, and former Cabinet Minister Margaret Birch, the first woman to be named to Ontario's cabinet.



We met **David Peterson, the 20th premier of Ontario**, at his law firm Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP. Mr. Peterson reflected on the Meech Lake Accord, the 1986 doctors' strike, and the Peterson-Rae accord, which ended more than forty consecutive years of Progressive Conservative government in Ontario. He cautioned that politics is not an easy profession, and that there is often tension between political pragmatism and good public policy. According to Mr. Peterson, a good leader is generous, sensitive, energetic, authentic, and far-sighted.



The Honourable Bob Rae, the 21st premier of Ontario, shared his perspective on the Peterson-Rae accord and examined a similar, but ultimately fruitless arrangement between Stéphane Dion and Jack Layton in 2008. He currently serves as Special Envoy to Myanmar. With a focus on future challenges at home and abroad, Mr. Rae discussed the nuances of humanitarian aid, the international justice system, the need for reconciliation with Canada's Indigenous peoples, and the importance of co-creating policy.



During our meeting with **Mike Harris, the 22nd premier of Ontario**, we discussed a number of topics such as fiscal responsibility, economic development, education, and social welfare. In reflecting on his well-known "Common Sense Revolution," Mr. Harris described the process of crafting a platform and developing government programs that increase freedom and opportunity for individuals, thereby leveling the playing field.

Premiers and Ministers



We travelled to Gravitas Financial to meet **Ernie Eves**, the **23rd premier of Ontario**. Despite his eventual leadership win, Mr. Eves said he only won his first riding nomination by 26 votes and the subsequent election by six votes. Our discussion covered the concept of conservatism, funding for special education, whipped votes, Indigenous self-government, and the evolution of Ontario's fiscal landscape. Mr. Eves left us with the advice that, "very few people have the opportunity to serve... if you have the opportunity you should seize it."



Dalton McGuinty, the **24th premier of Ontario**, was the first former Premier we had the opportunity to meet. We discussed his leadership philosophy and the story leading up to his Liberal leadership win. Mr. McGuinty highlighted the importance of including in Cabinet those who ran against him in the Liberal leadership race, in order to harness their expertise and experience to the advantage of all Ontarians. Mr. McGuinty reminded us that the best leaders reinforce what we all have in common.



We were fortunate to meet with **former Liberal MPP and Cabinet Minister Sean Conway**, who represented the ridings of (former) Renfrew North and Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke from 1975-2003. Mr. Conway served in a number of high profile positions in government and opposition, most memorably as Minister of Education. During our meeting, he offered insights on future growth in Ontario, the urban-rural divide, as well as senate and electoral reform.



We had the pleasure of meeting **former PC MPP and Cabinet Minister, Dan Newman**. During our meeting, we discussed the profound ways in which the internet has changed politics and campaigning. Mr. Newman was one of the first MPPs to have a website, which he proudly dubbed "HelloNewman" in reference to the television show Seinfeld. He emphasized the importance of serving everyone in the riding, even those who voted for another candidate.

The Interns Head North



Our study tour to Yellowknife started on a Sunday morning before sunrise. Ten hours later, we landed at the Yellowknife Airport, anxious to spend the week learning about the politics of the Northwest Territories.



The interns with Speaker Jackson Lafferty in his office.

When we arrived at the Legislature the next morning, we were greeted by the staff who helped organize our visit and taken on a tour of the legislative building by Katie Weaver, the Legislative Assembly's public affairs and communications intern. Ms. Weaver gave us an exciting tour of the exhibits, paintings and rooms of the Assembly, and shared the history of the building. We were fortunate to get a close-up view of the mace of the Northwest Territories, a symbol of both the authority of the Crown and the diversity of the territory's Indigenous communities. After the tour, we had the honour of meeting the Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker of the

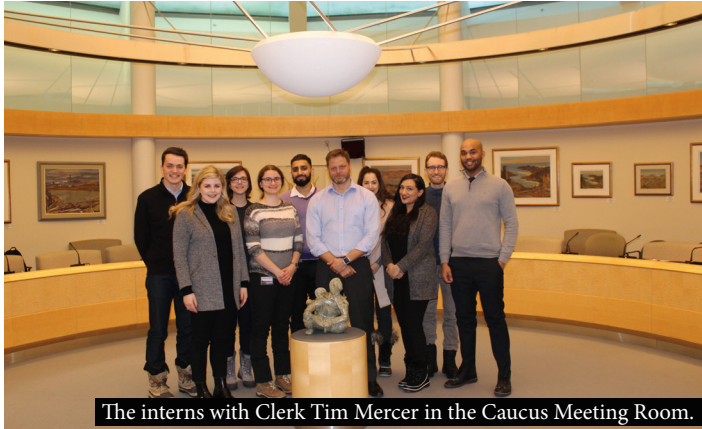
Legislative Assembly, who spoke of his community and his motivations for joining political life. We then had lunch at the famous Gold Range Bistro in downtown Yellowknife with Lee Selleck, the Assembly's Director of Research, Library and Information Services. Before joining the Assembly, Mr. Selleck had a long career in journalism; we spoke extensively about the inner workings of the Legislative Assembly and the media landscape in the Northwest Territories.



The interns with Lee Selleck at the Gold Range Bistro.

Heading to Yellowknife, we were all curious about the territory's consensus-style legislature. In our session with Dr. Graham White, we learned that the territory does not have political parties, and that the Premier and Cabinet are elected by the 19-member legislature. Tim Mercer, the Clerk of the Assembly, further explained

the benefits, complexities, and challenges of consensus-style governance. We also heard from Alyssa Holland, Legislative Counsel at the Assembly, on supporting members in a consensus-style legislature, and from Allan Cash, Deputy Secretary to Cabinet, who provided important context on the socioeconomic realities of the territory.



The interns with Clerk Tim Mercer in the Caucus Meeting Room.

We heard from many political leaders about the policy challenges facing the territory. Premier Bob McLeod generously hosted us for a breakfast conversation during which he spoke of the rural-urban divide, the territory's need to attract skilled and educated workers, as well as the complexity of governing the territory's 33 communities, each with distinct interests and challenges. We learned that the capital, Yellowknife, is by far the territory's largest city, inhabited by more than half of its population.



The interns with Premier Bob McLeod in front of the Chamber.

His Worship Mark Heyck, Mayor of Yellowknife, hosted us in the city's Council Chambers, where we discussed his childhood in Yellowknife, his political career, and the future of the city. We met with several Members of the Legislative Assembly over a lunch and learned about the needs of their communities, some



Top to bottom: Some interns dogsledding; In the Chamber; With Scott McQueen in front of his cabin.

of which are located in the Arctic Circle and adversely affected by climate change.

Throughout our meetings with politicians and public servants, we discussed Indigenous self-governance and the devolution of the Northwest Territories from the federal government. We explored this in depth with Shaleen Woodward, Acting Deputy Minister of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations. We also learned about the Giant Mine Remediation Project from its Deputy Director Natalie Plato. Ms. Plato described the impact that public consultations with the affected Dene community had on the project.

At the end of our trip, we were welcomed by Scott McQueen and his family to their cabin in Yellowknife. There we shared a delicious homemade meal and learned about the traditional land economy of the Dene and Métis peoples of the territory.

We are grateful to everyone in Yellowknife who made our visit informative and enjoyable. We left the city with a much deeper understanding of the policy challenges facing Canada's territories and the history of the federal-territorial relationship.

Learning from Ontario's

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne

We met with Premier Kathleen Wynne in the Legislature's Executive Council Chamber, where Cabinet meets. The Premier was generous with her time and expertise, and reflected on the role of the media in contemporary politics, reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and intergovernmental affairs. We also discussed the challenges for women entering politics and positions of leadership, particularly in regards to traditional and social media. The Premier concluded by discussing Ontario's relationship with the United States.



The Honourable Charles Sousa

We were fortunate to meet with Minister of Finance Charles Sousa, as the final budget prior to the election was on the horizon. Minister Sousa guided us through the various stages and nuances of the budget cycle with regards to allocations, projections, and coordination with Cabinet. He detailed specific initiatives, such as the distribution and regulation of cannabis, carbon cap and trade, and OHIP+. Minister Sousa also explained the broader challenges



of his role, such as dealing with uncertainty in the global economy and providing opportunity for Ontarians.

Executive Council



The Honourable David Zimmer

During the Manitoba interns' visit to Queen's Park, we were pleased to join them in meeting David Zimmer, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. We learned about Ontario's commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and building relationships with 133 First Nations communities, as well as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations and what they mean for Ontario's government and public service. Minister Zimmer encouraged us to be mindful of these issues as we progress in our careers.



The Honourable Mitzie Hunter

Given our cohort's interest in education policy, we were delighted to meet with (then) Education Minister Mitzie Hunter, now Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development. She offered her perspective on initiatives such as the Achieving Excellence strategy, the Education Equity Secretariat, and financial literacy education in Ontario Schools. Minister Hunter explained the importance of students gaining 21st century global competency skills, as well as improving equity by "levelling the playing field" for marginalized students in schools.



The Honourable Chris Ballard

The interns enjoyed an informative meeting with the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, Chris Ballard. He stressed that Ontario has taken actions to reduce its carbon footprint, including financial incentives for the purchase of electric vehicles. Using the Climate Change Action Plan as an example, Minister Ballard explained cross-ministerial collaboration and coordination. He also reminisced about his time as Minister of Housing and the importance of municipal knowledge to his portfolios in government.

Constituency Visits



Daryl in Kitchener-Conestoga: When I visited the riding, MPP Harris and I went on a tour of the three townships. In the Township of Wilmot, we paid a visit to the statue of Sir John A. Macdonald while walking the Prime Ministers Path.



Kassandra in Parry Sound-Muskoka: During my fall placement, MPP Miller took me on an aerial tour of his beautiful riding.



Mackenzie in Prince Edward-Hastings: During my first placement, MPP Smith and I toured the Darlington Refurbishment. The Darlington Nuclear Generating Station produces approximately 20 percent of the province's electricity.



Josef in Nickel Belt: In November, I visited Nickel Belt with MPP Gélinas. After being stuck behind a tractor-trailer on Highway 144 for two and a half hours, we stopped at the Arctic Watershed sign, halfway between Timmins and Sudbury. From this point, all waters flow North into the Arctic Ocean.

Academic Sessions

For our cohort, springtime has become a season for academic learning. We are all hard at work doing research for our academic papers, which will be presented at the 2018 CPSA Annual Conference in Regina, Saskatchewan. We have also been learning from academics specializing in Canadian political institutions.

Dr. Patrice Dutil (Ryerson University)

The power of the ‘centre’ is real, and it has been there since Confederation. Political power in Canada was concentrated in the person of the prime minister long before Pierre Trudeau expanded the Prime Minister’s Office, according to Dr. Patrice Dutil. With Dr. Dutil, we travelled away from the politics of the present and into the daily routines and strategic machinations of Canada’s early prime ministers, including Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir Wilfrid Laurier. We learned that appropriate Cabinet selection and management is necessary to succeed at governing, that patronage appointments helped ensure deference towards the prime minister, and that simple and unquestioned historical narratives often conceal valuable truths.



Dr. Anna Esselment (University of Waterloo)

If you believe non-stop campaigning is solely an American phenomenon, think again. Dr. Anna Esselment argues that campaign-like strategies are also used by Canadian political parties during the process of governing in between elections. Dr. Esselment showed us some of the hallmarks of this kind of partisan activity, including: growing numbers of communications staff, limiting media access, running partisan ads outside of the writ period, and constantly fundraising. However, as Dr. Esselment observed, “good governance is not the same as good campaigning” – something for us all to think about as Queen’s Park gears up for the June 2018 election.



Dr. Graham White (University of Toronto)

Before packing our long underwear and heading to the airport, we sat down with the one and only Dr. Graham White for a crash course on the Northwest Territories and an introduction to consensus government. Described as a “Federation within a Federation”, the NWT is home to Inuit, Dene, and Métis communities, some of which have chosen to exercise their right to self-governance. Dr. White explained the ongoing significance of treaties, including the process by which modern-day treaties are negotiated. After this academic session, we were well-prepared to explore Yellowknife and its politics.



Exploring Public Service



Secretary of the Cabinet Steve Orsini

We had an informative discussion with Secretary of the Cabinet Steve Orsini on what makes a strong and agile public service. Secretary Orsini noted that, in our modern society characterized by innovation and disruption, “the only constant is change and even the rate of change is changing.” We discussed the policy challenges the Ontario Public Service must address, such as the integration of autonomous vehicles and the impact of artificial intelligence on the labour market. Secretary Orsini and his team have laid out a path for the future of the OPS, and we are excited to see how it continues to evolve.



Deputy Minister Bruce Rodrigues

We had the opportunity to discuss Ontario’s education sector with Deputy Minister of Education Bruce Rodrigues. DM Rodrigues spoke about the Ministry’s efforts to consult with Ontario’s children when developing education policy that affects them. He also shared his personal and professional path with us, and his commitment to an education system that creates global and ethical problem-solvers.



Deputy Minister Greg Orensak

We had a fantastic conversation with Deputy Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development Greg Orensak. We discussed some of the most pressing policy issues in higher education, as well as the attributes of a great public servant. DM Orensak also shared his thoughts on diversity within the OPS. Finally, he urged us to not forget the importance of leadership development as we build our careers.

Meetings Galore



Alumna Julia Deans, CEO of Futurpreneur Canada



Jesse Brown, founder of the CANADALAND podcast



Kevin McGurgan, British Consul General in Toronto



Alumni Chelsea Peet and Jonathan Trentadue, Cabinet Office, and Emma Ferrone, Ministry of Community and Social Services



Jane Hilderman, Michael Morden, and Sameen Zehra, Samara Canada



Chief Isadore Day and alumna Sydney Oakes, Chiefs of Ontario

The Churchill Society

The Churchill Society for the Advancement of Parliamentary Democracy is one of our oldest sponsors. Each year, the Society exposes the interns to Churchill's legacy and the importance of responsible government in Ontario. The Society generously sponsors our study tour to the U.K. with funds raised at the Annual Churchill Society Dinner, its flagship event.

This year's dinner was held at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel. The dinner honoured former federal and provincial minister the Honourable John Baird with the award for Excellence in the Cause of Parliamentary Democracy. Mr. Baird was eloquently introduced by Sean Conway, a friend of OLIP and former provincial Liberal minister. The evening's keynote address was delivered by Dr. Tim Cook, a historian from the Canadian War Museum. We enjoyed the evening and the opportunity to network and discuss democracy.

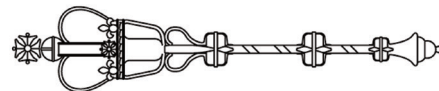
Another fascinating event organized by the Churchill Society was "An Independent Senate: A new challenge to politics and policy in Canada?" Held at Massey College, the event focused on recent reforms to the Senate and the future trajectory of the upper chamber.



Matthew and Jaskiran at the Annual Churchill Society Dinner with some of The Churchill Society's board members, speaker Sean Conway, and award recipient The Hon. John Baird.

The event was moderated by Tom Axworthy, a former speechwriter for Pierre Trudeau. Panelists included current Senator Pamela Wallin, past Senator Lorna Marsden, as well as Senate scholars David Smith from Ryerson University and Emmett Macfarlane from the University of Waterloo.

We are looking forward to another Churchill Society event, "Darkest Hour: Fact and Fiction," which will be held on April 19. The evening will cover two competing perspectives of Churchill and the events of May 1940. The first perspective will be provided by the Academy Award-nominated film *Darkest Hour*; Gary Oldman won the Best Actor Academy Award for his portrayal of Churchill in the film. The second perspective will be based on the book *Cabinet's Finest Hour: The Hidden Agenda of May 1940*, authored by former UK cabinet minister Lord David Owen.



CHURCHILL SOCIETY

FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY

Our 2018 Applicants

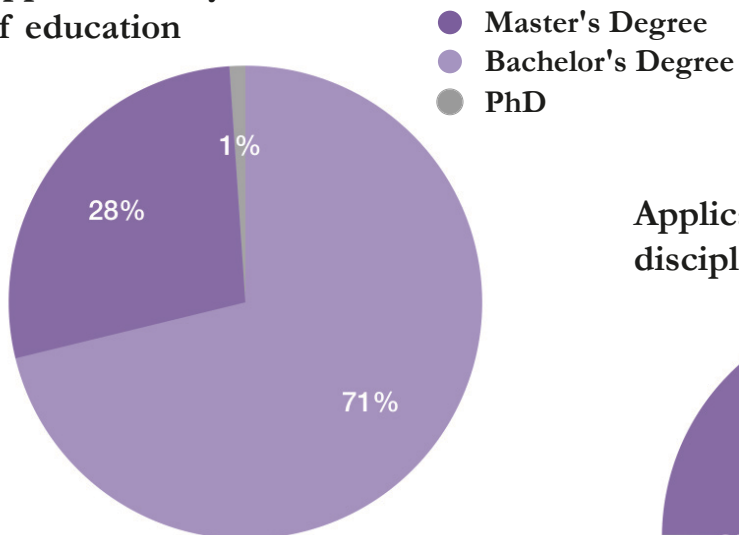


131 Total applications

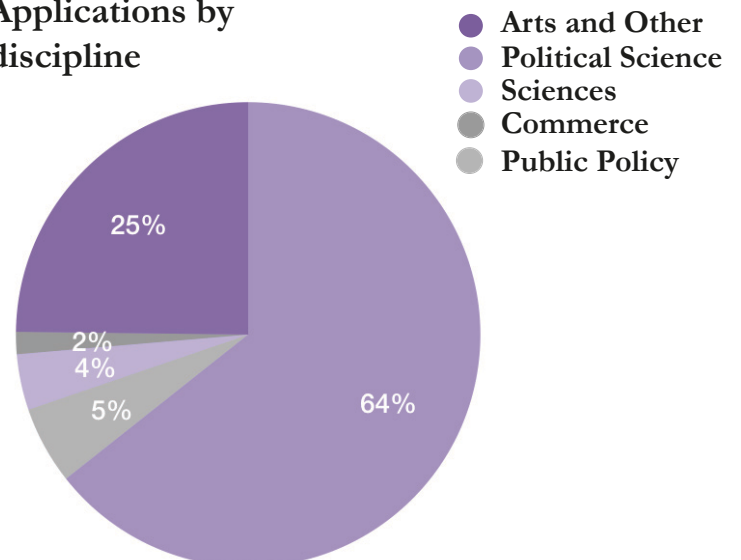
12 Applications
From Outside
Ontario

8 Provinces
Represented

Applications by level
of education



Applications by
discipline



Alumni Spotlight



Sara Lyons

Intern Year: 2001-2002

Sara is Vice President, Strategic Initiatives for Community Foundations of Canada.

Tell us about yourself and your career trajectory.

I live in Montreal and I am the mother of two girls. Starting with a role at the Toronto Foundation, I have been working in the foundation sector for over 12 years. Currently, I am Vice President, Strategic Initiatives for Community Foundations of Canada. I focus on leading and supporting Canadian foundations to lean into new tools for impact like social finance. I am also the Board Chair of a small charity called The Circle on Philanthropy and Aboriginal People in Canada. We work to create space for sharing and transformation between traditional philanthropy and Indigenous charities and communities.

Since OLIP I haven't worked in politics but I've worked on local election campaigns from time to time. This fall I spent a rainy Montreal election day going door-to-door for Valérie Plante!

How did your time at Queen's Park influence your life after the program?

My first job after the internship was with one of the sponsors of OLIP! I have been consistently attracted to roles that touch on policy, social change and involve collaboration with government. Having worked inside

the walls has helped me relate to the pressures of politicians, staffers and public servants.

I sometimes reflect on the journeys that the eight of us interns have been on in the 15 years since. I am lightly in touch with half of my cohort and after the intense shared experience of our year, I've enjoyed seeing the way their careers have unfolded. Some of it was predictable, some of it not so much!

What do you remember most about your OLIP year?

During our time, Ernie Eves replaced Mike Harris as Leader of the Ontario PC Party and Premier. The interns had a front row seat for that leadership race and how it played out at Queen's Park. We were even allowed to attend the convention. Those of us working for Progressive Conservative backbenchers at the time felt the way caucus was divided between the candidates.

My internship year was immediately before the Liberals won the 2003 election. Most of my cohort worked in the offices of people who were months away from being named Ministers. This meant that we really got to know them as regular people, saw their hard work, their ambition and felt the "political moment" at the precipice of change.

Alumni Spotlight

Frank Lowery

Intern Year: 1975-1976

Before he retired, Frank was Senior VP General Counsel at The Co-operators.



A message from The Co-operators:

When Frank joined The Co-operators, by his own admission, he had "no idea what a co-operative" was. Now, he's viewed by many as "Mr. Co-operators" at the company and has used his knowledge and corporate memory to promote cooperatives across Canada. Frank has always represented a passionate, reasoned and committed co-operative voice around the board and senior management tables across our group of companies.

Tell us about yourself and your career trajectory.

I studied political science and economics at the University of Toronto, and in my third year took a "study abroad" experience to the University of Texas where I worked for a state representative. I then started law school at the University of Toronto. Based on a lacklustre first year, I decided to apply for the new Ontario Legislative Internship Program. At the end of my internship, I ran as the NDP candidate in Scarborough North. The Conservative Education Minister Tom Wells held the riding, but I won a healthy 24% of the vote.

OLIP gave me a completely different perspective on the study of law. I began my career at the predecessor to Fasken Martineau, The Canadian Life Assurance Company, and Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. Most of my career has been at The Co-operators Group Limited in Guelph, where I worked from 1987 until 2017. I am now retired but continue to do a variety of pro-bono work, including writing a book on the modern history of The Co-operators, sitting on a non-profit board dealing with affordable housing, and work with the International Cooperative Alliance.

How did your time at Queen's Park influence your life after the program?

OLIP renewed my interest in pursuing my legal degree and made me understand in a more profound way the

value of the law. I am not what is often referred to as a "lawyer's lawyer." I view our legal framework as the civil contract we have all entered into. Having that view has helped me significantly with my career and in advancing co-operative issues. My OLIP colleagues were a great group and I learned from them as well. With The Co-operators being a long-time sponsor of OLIP, I stayed in touch with how the program evolved.

What's the best story from your year?

When we were in Quebec City, we went to a local restaurant for dinner with the Speaker of the National Assembly. There, we met René Lévesque, then the Premier of Quebec. I had a lot of views about separatism at that point (I didn't support it) but I was wowed by Mr. Lévesque and remember thinking that if I lived in Quebec, he could have persuaded me of the cause.

Do you have any advice for this year's interns?

If you go into OLIP just to pass the time, you should do something else. It is a life-changing opportunity and you really need to try to make the most of it. You will be a better person and do better in your career and in your contribution to society by what you learn there. Also, good luck and have fun!

Visiting our Sponsors

The OLIP interns are fortunate to have a number of wonderful sponsors that help make the OLIP experience unique and memorable. In addition to supporting the programme financially, our sponsors are also generous with their time. A unique aspect of the OLIP-sponsorship relationship is the opportunity to learn about the sponsor's work and their place of business. While some meetings between sponsors and interns take place at Queen's Park, meetings are often held at a sponsor's office.

We visited Rogers Communications' Bloor campus with Jodi Parps, Manager of Government Relations. After a reflection on our year at Queen's Park, Jodi's career, and the provincial policy challenges that Rogers faces, the interns were given a tour of the vast campus. Notable features at the Bloor campus are the Sportsnet studios, as well as Rogers' radio stations such as the FAN 590, 680 News, Kiss 92.5, and 98.1 CHFI.



Advanced education is a passion for many interns in our cohort. It is therefore rewarding to have sponsors like the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA). Thank you to Executive Director Mark Rosenfeld, Executive and Special Projects Coordinator Cheryl Athersych, and Policy Analyst for Community and Government Relations Brynne Sinclair-Waters.



The interns were grateful to meet with another sponsor, the Council of Ontario Universities (COU). President and CEO David Lindsay and Senior Director of Government and Strategic Partnerships Krista Orendorff provided valuable insights on the trajectory of Ontario's university system and the role of universities in society. It was also fascinating to hear about Mr. Lindsay's experiences at Queen's Park in the 1990s.



The Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) are a constant presence at Queen's Park and are avid supporters of the OLIP interns. Thank you to PEO President Bob Dony and Manager of Government Liaison Programs Jeannette Chau for your support of OLIP and our interactions throughout the year.



Enbridge representatives hosted us at the company's Toronto headquarters. A comprehensive presentation, as well as an overview of energy policy and government relations, was given by Government Affairs Manager Tim Smitheman and Senior Government Affairs Advisor David Donovan (OLIP 2008-09). Thank you to Enbridge for your continued support and for educating the interns about Ontario's energy system.



Interns have also attended memorable events thanks to sponsorship from VIA Rail Canada, Ontario Power Generation, Toronto-Dominion Bank, the Churchill Society for the Advancement of Parliamentary Democracy, and the Law Society of Ontario. Pictured to the right are some of the interns with representatives from VIA Rail Canada at Equal Voice's International Women's Day event.



In February, the interns met for lunch with AMAPCEO President Dave Bulmer, Executive Assistant to the President Anthony Schein, and Labour Relations Specialist Ben Rossiter (OLIP 2004-05). Kassandra and Matthew also met with Mr. Bulmer at AMAPCEO's annual conference, which featured a keynote speech from Dr. Danielle Martin on the state of Canadian healthcare. Thank you AMAPCEO for the continued opportunities.



In the spring, the interns will follow in the steps of past cohorts with a yearly visit to Estée Lauder's facilities in Markham, as well as to the famous Loblaws at Maple Leaf Gardens. Thank you to Estée Lauder's Director of Global Regulatory Affairs Kathleen Ljubisic and Executive Director of Global Regulatory Affairs Lorinda Loftonbrook, as well as Loblaws' Senior Government Relations Analyst Jesse Dhaliwal, for making these visits possible.

A new experience this year will be a visit to the TSX trading floor in Toronto with Gary Clement, Toronto-Dominion Bank's Senior Manager of Government Relations. We will also visit Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies' JLABS at MaRS with Manager of Ontario Government Affairs and Policy Jacqueline Dobson.

To all our other current sponsors or prospective sponsors, please let us know if you have ideas about ways we could continue to innovate the intern-sponsor relationship.

We are always grateful for the variety of ways that sponsors help to make our year at Queen's Park memorable.

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SPONSORS



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